

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

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SS-20 USIA-15 SAM-01 AID-20 AEC-11 CEA-02 CIEP-03

COME-00 EB-11 FEAЕ-00 FPC-01 INT-08 OMB-01 SCI-06

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TAGS: EGEN, ENRG, TU, IR

SUBJECT: KHALATBARI VISIT AND IRANIAN-ISKENDERUN NATURAL
GAS PIPELINE

REF: ANKARA 6875

1. NURVER NURES, CHIEF, PETROLEUM AFFAIRS, FONMIN, IN DISCUSSION
WITH EMBOFF CONCERNING THE RECENT VISIT IN TURKEY OF THE IRANIAN
MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, KHALATBARI, REFERRED TO THE
AUGUST 24 COMMUNIQUE AND THE IRAN-ISKENDERUN GAS PIPELINE. HE
COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS:

2. IRAN HAS AS YET MADE NO DECISION ON SALE OF NATURAL GAS TO
EITHER CONSORTIUM GROUP. U.S.-BELGIAN GROUP PROPOSES CONSTRUCTION OF
PIPELINE FROM IRAN TO ISKENDERUN WITH LIQUEFACTION PLANT IN
ISKENDERUN. ENI-RUHRGAZ-GAZ DE FRANCE PROPOSES CONSTRUCTION OF A
PIPELINE ACROSS TURKEY THROUGH GREECE TO ITALY. ACCORDING TO NURES,
ENI GROUP HAS ALSO ADVANCED A PROPOSAL TO IRANIAN GOVERNMENT ON
BUILDING A PIPELINE TO ISKENDERUN WITH FOLLOW-ON LIQUEFACTION AND
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PORT FACILITIES.

3. ALTHOUGH TURKEY HAS NO DESIRES TO ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE IRAN ON TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SALE OR PROSPECTIVE CONTRACTS, GOT, OF COURSE, PREFERS THAT PIPELINE GO TO ISKENDERUN SINCE THIS WOULD GIVE TURKS OPPORTUNITY TO PURCHASE NATURAL GAS FROM IRAN AND BUILD UP A MODEST PETRO-CHEMICAL COMPLEX IN AREA. NURES ADDED THAT PRELIMINARY DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN TWO MINISTERS ON IRANIAN ASSISTANCE TO TURKISH EMBRYONIC PETRO-CHEMICAL COMPLEX WERE DISCUSSED IN CONTEXT OF PIPELINE AND FUTURE AVAILABILITY OF NATURAL GAS AT ISKENDERUN.

4. ALTHOUGH NURES DID NOT SO STATE DIRECTELY, IT IS EVIDENT THAT GOT FEELS SOMEWHAT LEFT OUT AND UNINFORMED ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF POSSIBLE PIPELINE PROJECT. NURES SAID THAT "EXPERTS" FROM THE TWO COUNTRIES (PROBABLY FROM NIOC OR NIGC AND TPAO) WOULD GET TOGETHER IN NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS "MODALITIES" OF PROPOSED PROJECT.

MACOMBER

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